



STATE OF TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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BUDGET AND DATA COMMITTEE

Andrew Johnson Tower Ninth Floor Conference Room
Thursday, July, 27 2006
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon

MINUTES

Committee Members Present

Jim Ford, Chair
Natasha Blackshear
Dennis Clark
Tim Goldsmith
Marti Herndon
Trudy Hughes
Susan Lawless-Glassman
Carlton Lewis
Jo Ann Yates
Nancy Williams

Committee Members Absent

Charles Hutchins
Dwight Stokes

Commission Members Present

Cindy Durham, Commission Chair

Staff Present

Linda O'Neal
Pam Brown
Fay Delk
Emel Eff
Bill Latimer
Ashok Midha
Linda O'Neal
John Nixon
Steve Petty
Zanira Whitfield

Guest from Finance and Administration
Maureen Abbey

Chair Ford called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

I. Approval of May Minutes

**IT WAS MOVED (HUGHES) AND SECONDED (YATES) TO APPROVE THE
MAY BUDGET AND DATA COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES.
UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

II. Introduction of New Statistical Research Specialist – Pam Brown

Brown introduced Dr. Emel Eff who is the new Statistical Research Specialist for the KIDS COUNT team. Emel has already been working on information for presentation to the Select Committee on Children and Youth and found error on the national KIDS COUNT webpage, which they corrected after she reported it.

III. TCCY Media Coverage Update – Brown

Brown reported the *KIDS COUNT: State of Child of the Child in Tennessee* is at the printer and expected to be delivered soon. The release date will be set based on best date for coverage and availability of staff. An email and a press release will be sent to Commission members.

Brown reported on media coverage stating that two releases of the National KIDS COUNT book fell within the 2005-06 fiscal year. The report showed coverage by region, Mid-Cumberland gets most of the coverage because of office location; by type of media, radio, television, other issues covered; and types of contacts. The report included comparisons with previous years.

V. The Advocate Update –Delk

Delk reported that Talia Gursky, an intern, has been working on School Safety. We plan to use this information and the comptroller's report on zero tolerance for a newsletter planned for the beginning of the school year. Since the last meeting we had two newsletters. One was on after-school programs, and another, a report on legislation passed by the General Assembly. The legislative overview included articles from the Department of Education, Governor's Office of Children's Care Coordination, the Select Committee on Children and Youth and others. We continue to have people added to the Listserv.

VI. Web Stats – Pam Brown

Brown reported the state server crashed so there will be no May statistics. They have changed format and method of measuring. Brown will be working to get downloadable statistics in a more comparable form. The hits in April were comparable with the past, although the Compilation got more hits than previously reported.

VII. KIDS COUNT: The State of the Child Release – Pam Brown

The media report included information on 77 articles and broadcast media stories related to the 2006 release. O'Neal and Brown did the Morning Line call-in show on Channel 5. Eight stories resulted from Sen. Herron's response to Tennessee's drop in rankings from 43rd to 46th and plans for Select Committee hearings. We also had two reports resulting from Sen. Bryson using the rankings in a campaign speech. Brown pointed out that this is the first time we have had a strong reaction from the legislature.

Ford mentioned that Casey received national coverage on Fox News Fox and Friends and USA Today.

VIII. Budget Update – O’Neal and Maureen Abbey

O’Neal reported the accounting staff has been working to keep things going without a budget director. Maureen Abbey with the Department of Finance and Administration has been working with TCCY for about a year. She and the accounting staff are still working on closing the fiscal year. The agency will close in the black on all funding sources. Most of the expenditures will be cleared in the accounting run on the weekend of August 19. Federal dollars were not drawn down timely, but a system is now in place to fix that problem. Finance and Administration has assigned a retired person to help with the closing and with our 2007-08 budget submission. In a meeting with Lance Iverson, our budget analyst in F&A, Abbey and Chuck Holland, we agreed that our work plan for current fiscal years will be reduced by \$1 million in federal juvenile justice funds. We will be abolishing five positions: two vacant juvenile justice positions and a vacant accounting technician. Abolished positions also include an auditor position and grants contract manager positions that are filled. The staff has been given notice that their positions will end at the end of August. They are cautiously optimistic about prospects with other departments.

Because of reduction of planning and administration, we may need to ask for a supplemental appropriation this year to cover some of our basic functions. O’Neal distributed a history of how we got to where we are regarding funding and allocations-over the years. New responsibilities and new federal dollars resulted in positions being put in place. The federal fund reduction leaves us with challenges in funding general operations. Few of our administrative positions are fully paid by the state or funded from a distribution of funding sources. Other staff members are heavily either interdepartmentally funded or have a lot of federal funding. We have relatively few positions that are 100 percent state funded.

O’Neal reported in past fiscal year F&A has been helping us deal with the absence of a budget director and we were not billed for this help, but that will change. TCCY staff has done an outstanding job, but due to the complication of state budgets they need assistance. The experience and skills we need in a budget director are not available at the price we can pay. The state is going through a planning process to completely change and update all its accounting, purchasing and personnel procedures. This change will make them easier to use but more complicated to manage. All small agencies, even small state departments, will become a part of shared services with F&A.

Initially F&A absorbed its services to smaller agencies within its finance office. However, F&A has put it in its budget to set up a unit to provide services to the smaller state organizations. It hopes to have a unit fully operational by the beginning of the next calendar year. F&A has created a consulting group to help plan these services.

The new information system covering purchasing, inventory, fleet management, personnel and accounting will begin to be implemented by December 2007, beginning with the payroll system. The financial services will begin in July 2008.

Ford discussed the need for common sense regarding auditing the smaller grants and grants to governmental agencies that are already being audited.

IX. TCCY Budget Improvements for FY 2007-08 – O’Neal (ACTION)

O’Neal reported the agency budget for the year beginning next July is due October 1. In the past we have asked for CASA fund increases. This year we got them. This year’s request includes.

1. State funds to replace declining federal dollars for accounting and support staff. No specific figure was listed. By the end of the budget process an exact amount will be known. This is the first priority.
2. Assistant director position. The size of the workload and transition planning and the need to pick up oversight of accounting issues mean we should start requesting this. We have never gotten more than one improvement item at a time.
3. A continuing request for CPORT funding after the cuts in the program. We were in a collaborative process with DCS last year and this year, but after this year there will be a need for additional funding. These services are funded out of the DCS budget.

Abbey mentioned that an aging workforce means that agencies need to plan for the financial challenges of people leaving and the costs of paying for accumulated leaves. This retirement will also mean a loss of experience and institutional memory. Abbey said that it has been assumed that salary savings because of the lag in filling vacant positions would replace the costs of unexpended leave, etc.

**IT WAS MOVED (LAWLESS-GLASSMAN) AND SECONDED (HUGHES)
UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE TCCY BUDGET IMPROVEMENTS FOR
FY 2007-08.**

X. TCCY Budget Recommendations to the Governor for FY 2007-08 – Linda O’Neal

O’Neal reported that state law requires TCCY to review and analyze the appropriations bill. Because input at that point is too late to have an impact on the process, for a number of years TCCY has made recommendations for the Governor’s budget. A letter will be sent to the commissioners, people in leadership positions in the House and Senate, and to all members of Select Committee on Children and Youth. Recommendations for funding for interdepartmental efforts to increase communication, cooperation and collaboration were moved to the top of the list, because some of the greatest problems cut across departments. The recommendations were:

Funding to establish statewide early childhood education programs.

Interdepartmental efforts

- Improved communication, coordination and collaboration among child serving departments;
- Use of evidence-based practices;
- System of Care;
- Substance abuse treatment services;
- Comprehensive early intervention and prevention across programs;
- Programs to address truancy;
- Coordinated school health;
- Services for refugee and immigrant children.

Department of Children’s Services

- Evaluation of the Child Protective Services Multi-Level Response System;
- Community services to support the Multi-Level Response Systems;
- Tuition waiver/scholarship funds for youth previously in state custody;
- Juvenile justice services, including detention alternatives.

Department of Education

- Family resource centers, including evaluation;
- Family literacy programs.

TennCare, CoverKids and Cover Tennessee

- Nurse home visiting programs;
- Smoking cessation programs for women of child-bearing age;
(Both programs prevent low-birthweight and infant mortality).

Health

- Efforts to improve maternal health and reduce infant mortality;
- Home visiting programs;
- Addressing disparity in minority health outcomes;
- Medical home model.

Human Services

- Adequate child care reimbursement to address higher costs of serving younger children as more older preschoolers go into state pre-k programs;
- Increase in Families First grants level (O'Neal reported that Tennessee is third lowest in these payments, followed only by Alabama and Mississippi);
- Supportive services for TANF families.

Mental health and developmental disabilities

- System of care for children and their families;
- Appropriate screening.

Administrative Office of the Courts

- Legal representation for children and families.

Higher Education

- Especially programs to train people to work serving children and their families.

Ford suggested including information on the Kids Count results and ranking information in the cover letter. Hughes asked if TCCY would do the evaluation of multilevel response system and family resource centers. O'Neal said evaluating the multilevel response system could use CPORT methodology, but probably not FRC's. The letter acknowledges previous year's recommendations that had been funded.

O'Neal said that hearings with the budget director often focused on the budget recommendations in addition to our own budget issues.

Petty suggested that funding for bullying prevention be including.

IT WAS MOVED (HUGHES) AND SECONDED (LEWIS) TO ACCEPT THE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR FOR FY 2007-08, WITH THE ADDITION OF COMMENTS REGARDING TENNCARE IN THE COVER LETTER AND BULLYING RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE RECOMMENDATIONS. UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

XI. Other business.

Brown reported on the Select Committee on Children and Youth hearing held Tuesday. The hearing was called by Sen. Roy Herron after the release of the national KIDS COUNT book. Senator Heron responded with his own press release and followed up with the hearing. Presentations at the committee included: Laura Beavers, research associate for the Annie E. Casey Foundation, talking about the choice of indicators for the ranking and the sources of information; Stephanie Walton, children and families program manager for the National Commission of State Legislatures, talked about rankings and indicators as policy making tools; and Linda O'Neal talked about KIDS COUNT in Tennessee.

Brown said committee members had a good discussion and asked good questions. The eight members attending had concerns and made recommendations related to hearing from key people from departments where rankings were poor and getting them together to form action plans.

Eff worked to show the level of reductions to bring the state to average or number one. All materials are posted on the committee's website. The hearing was the first select committee to be available on the Internet on streaming video. Rep. John Deberry wanted to do something similar in Memphis because of the big numbers in Memphis. Ford commended the staff on being able to respond promptly to information. The next step will be to hear from state departments with plans to reduce negative outcomes.

**IT WAS MOVED (YATES) AND SECONDED (LAWLESS GLASSMAN) TO
ADJOURN. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

Meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Minutes Submitted by:

Minutes Approved by:

Pam Brown, Director KIDS COUNT

Jim Ford, Chair

H DRIVE/SHARED FILES/COMMISSION/MINUTES FOLDER